

**CHANGE**

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

7210.38A CHG 1

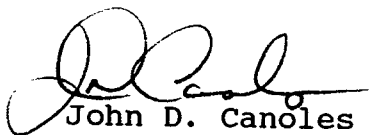
5/30/90

SUBJ: CENTER WEATHER SERVICE UNIT (CWSU)

1. PURPOSE. Restates the requirement for the establishment of the Center Weather Service Unit (CWSU) and the national standard operating procedures for Federal Aviation Administration personnel and National Weather Service (NWS) meteorologists assigned to a CWSU.
2. PRINCIPAL CHANGE. Adds a provision to amend meteorologist shift hours to provide coverage during hazardous weather conditions.
3. DISPOSITION OF TRANSMITTAL. After filing the revised pages, this change transmittal should be retained.

PAGE CONTROL CHART

Remove Pages	Dated	Insert Pages	Dated
i (and ii)	4/6/84	i (and ii)	5/30/90
3 and 4	4/6/84	3 and 4	5/30/90
7 (and 8)	4/6/84	7 (and 8)	5/30/90



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A-FAT-2,4,5,6,7,8 (LTD)

Initiated By: ATP-130



## FOREWORD

- \* The concept of the Center Weather Service Unit (CWSU) was initially established in 1978, and is currently in operation at 21 air route traffic control centers.

In an agreement with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Weather Service (NWS) meteorologists are assigned to the ARTCC CWSU's to provide real-time information on hazardous weather conditions for direct input into the air traffic control system.

This order prescribes the national standard operating procedures for both FAA personnel and NWS meteorologists assigned to a CWSU. The ultimate effectiveness of the CWSU, however, will be dependent on:

Reliable and timely weather products and services.

Close and mutual interaction, understanding, and cooperation between meteorologists and controllers.

An in-depth knowledge and understanding of the air traffic control system and its precise weather needs.

Timely and accurate dissemination of hazardous weather information.



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## CHAPTER 2. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

10. CENTER WEATHER SERVICE UNIT (CWSU).

a. The primary function and responsibility of the CWSU is to provide meteorological advice and consultation to center operations personnel and other designated FAA air traffic facilities, terminal and FSS, within the ARTCC area of responsibility.

b. Information provided by the CWSU is developed through analysis and interpretation of available weather data and is provided in the form of briefings and other weather products (forecasts and nowcasts).

(1) Briefings - Generally consist of a forecast of weather conditions pertinent to the ARTCC area during a specified period, plus an extended outlook. Briefings will be scheduled and provided as required by the facility manager.

(2) Meteorological Impact Statement (MIS) - An unscheduled planning forecast describing conditions expected to begin within 4 to 12 hours which will, in the forecaster's judgement, impact the flow of traffic within the ARTCC area.

(3) Center Weather Advisory (CWA) - An unscheduled air traffic and aircrew advisory statement which is generally a nowcast for conditions currently in existence or beginning within the next 2 hours. A CWA may be issued to supplement or redefine an existing SIGMET, or, when as detailed in WSOM Chapter D-25, conditions warrant.

c. The duties and responsibilities described herein are not all inclusive. Facility managers shall ensure that comprehensive local orders and procedures for operation of the CWSU are developed to supplement this order. Local orders shall include a prioritized listing of the duties and responsibilities of both the meteorologist and WC. Exhibit D-25-3, Attachment 1, WSOM Chapter D-25, Center Weather Service Unit Priority of Duties, is the listing of meteorologist priorities. Changes will require approval by both NWS and FAA regional headquarters. Copies of local orders on CWSU procedures shall be forwarded to ATP-130.

\* \* \*

d. Operational problems that cannot be resolved between the MIC and the facility manager will be forwarded to FAA and NWS regional headquarters.

11. FACILITY MANAGER.

a. The ARTCC facility manager has operational responsibility for the CWSU, and shall:

\* (1) Make provisions to ensure a WC is assigned on each shift.\*

(2) Establish procedures to ensure that operational personnel:

- (a) Receive pertinent and timely weather data.
- (b) Broadcast SIGMET/CWA messages as required.
- (c) Solicit and relay PIREP's as requested.

(3) Provide facility and air traffic control system familiarization training for assigned meteorologists.

12. METEOROLOGIST-IN-CHARGE (MIC).

a. The MIC is the operational supervisor of the assigned meteorologists, and is responsible for ensuring that the CWSU meets the center's weather support requirements as established by this order and the facility manager.

b. The MIC shall establish time and attendance procedures for the CWSU meteorologists.

13. METEOROLOGIST.

a. Provides meteorological support for air traffic facilities, with the primary function of analyzing and interpreting available weather data to determine actual and near-term forecast weather conditions and to provide a "nowcasting" service. Nowcasting is a description of existing conditions or a diagnosis of a given situation which can be used to make operational decisions. Examples are a sooner-than-expected development of thunderstorms or the beginning of snow when none was anticipated. It allows the meteorologist to advise ATC personnel of changing weather conditions and provide an updated forecast.

b. Monitor and seek, where necessary, sufficient weather \* intelligence to provide timely advice on weather conditions which \* affect, or have the potential to affect, air traffic services or aircraft operations within the assigned ARTCC area, to include, but not limited to:

- (1) Thunderstorm location and intensity;
- (2) Areas of precipitation;
- (3) Cloud coverage;
- (4) Icing levels;
- (5) Turbulence;
- (6) Winds aloft;

## CHAPTER 3. ADMINISTRATION

20. OPERATING HOURS AND STAFFING. Total shift staffing and the operational hours of each CWSU shall be specified by the MIC in consonance with the ARTCC facility manager. Shift staffing shall \* be based upon available human resources, air traffic volume, and weather considerations. Shift hours shall be varied as necessary to ensure adequate meteorologist support when hazardous weather conditions are known to be occurring or are forecast to occur. ARTCC facility managers shall ensure that the WC position is manned on all shifts.

21. LEAVE AND OVERTIME. Annual leave and overtime, which affects the normal operating hours of the CWSU, shall be subject to the approval of the ARTCC facility manager. Sick leave will \* be handled in accordance with standard procedures.

22. DOCUMENTATION AND REPORTING OF LSAS EQUIPMENT/CIRCUIT OUTAGES AND MALFUNCTIONS.

a. Documentation of LSAS equipment/circuit outages. Each CWSU shall record equipment/circuit outages on FAA Form 7230-4 (Daily Record of Facility Operation).

b. Program Reporting Procedures. Malfunctions or failures at the facility shall be analyzed to determine if the problem is \* either with WMSC or CONTEL.

c. If it is determined the failure is CONTEL's responsibility, the CWSU shall report the problem to the designated CONTEL customer care center (CCC). CONTEL shall be requested to restore equipment/circuit failure as soon as possible.

(1) In addition to reporting trouble to CONTEL, system outages shall also be reported to the ARTCC system engineer for inclusion in the National Airspace Performance Reporting System.

(2) The following conditions shall be reported to the Regional Assistant LSAS Program Manager and Systems Management Center through the circuit coordinator when:

(a) Unable to contact the CCC within 15 minutes to report an outage.

(b) An unsatisfactory response to a trouble report has been received from CONTEL.

(c) CONTEL technician does not arrive within a reasonable commuting time or 3 hours, whichever occurs first. \*

(d) Unsatisfactory maintenance has been received on terminal equipment.

23-29 RESERVED

